Demand and supply of coal

† 412**.** SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great difference between demand and supply of coal;

(b) if so, the quantum of production as well as demand of coal in the country each year for the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to take foreign help to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) As per estimates of the Planning Commission the demand for coal during 2005-06 is 445.65 million tonnes. This demand is planned to be met from domestic supply of 406.48 million tonnes. With proposed imports of 23.89 million tonnes of coking coal for steel sector and 13.45 million tonnes of non-coking coal for power utilities, there will be small gap in coal availability which will be met from enhanced production from indigenous sources.

(b) The demand of coal *vis-a-vis* production during the last three years are given below:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Production
2002-03	368.23	341.27
2003-04	385.19	361.17
2004-05	418.40	379.80

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given in (c) above.

Recommendation of Planning Commission on reforms in coal sector

413. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.